

POSTAGE STAMPS WITH PERFORATED INITIALS

A Perfin (Perforated Initials) is a series of small holes punched into a stamp forming a letter, series of letters, insignia or other design. Perfins are applied by an individual, organization or government agency for the purpose of preventing the unauthorised use or theft of the stamps. Perfins exist printed normally (viewed from front and back respectively); inverted (viewed from front and back respectively); or occasionally sideways.

SMITH, BELL & COMPANY

The origins of Smith Bell & Company, Inc. date to 1838, when a young Scotsman named James Adam Smith was sent to the Philippines to look after the interest of Jardine Matheson & Company. Six years later, after establishing good connections, Smith went into partnership with Henry Constable and Robert Philip Wood. This partnership eventually served as the foundation of what was to become Smith Bell & Company, Inc. By June of 1846, Wood opened the firm of Constable, Wood and Company.

The name Smith Bell & Company finally came into being when Robert Wood set up partnership with an American named Lawrence R. Bell. Bell managed the company for a while after Wood left for England. Eventually, Bell also left Manila for unknown reason but the company name remained.

The company primarily engaged in trading, import and export. Hemp (abaca) was a leading item for export and was shipped mostly to the United States to meet the demand of the Atlantic and Pacific shipbuilders. This extensive trading enabled Smith Bell to serve as a bridge between the Asian countries and the West, introducing the country to foreign goods and opening its international markets.

By 1849, Smith Bell was appointed agents of Imperial Insurance Company, Ltd. marking the involvement and entry of Smith Bell into the insurance industry. Years later, it would be appointed as agents for Lloyd's of London in 1877, as well as agents for seven other insurance companies. The year 1866 saw the expansion of Smith Bell as it opened its Cebu branch, the first of many branches to be established throughout the archipelago.

In 1880, the country experienced one of its worst rice shortages because of milling inadequacies. Responding to this acute situation, Smith Bell also operated its own fleet of lighters and inter-island steamers; the company was able to distribute rice to the southern provinces. Aside from the rice shortage, the company also had to cope with the sugar shortage crisis. Smith Bell established the Luzon Sugar Company, the first sugar refinery in the islands located a few miles north of Manila.

While the company had to contend with one crisis after another, it also managed to reach peak performance. During these years, most foreign firms engaged in the import-export trade and banking operations also ventured into shipping, fire and marine insurance and became agents of international lines and companies. Towards the end of the 19th century, Smith Bell held the agencies of at least four banking institutions, seven insurance firms and at least six shipping lines and was the representative of several commercial Spanish inter-island vessels.

Smith Bell and Company exists today, headquartered in Makati, with ongoing interests in insurance, shipping, and renewable energy.

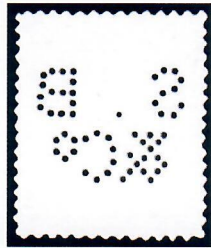
SMITH, BELL & COMPANY**'S. B & Co' in two lines**

Period after the 'S' but not after the 'B'

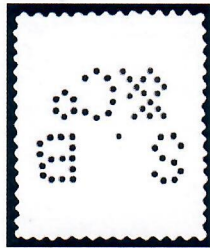
Used between 1870s and 1880s



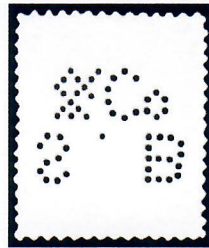
Position A



Position B



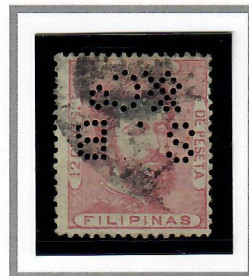
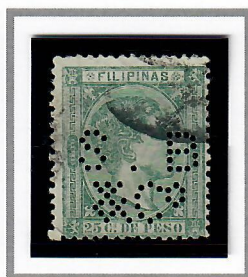
Position C



Position D



Position E

KING AMADEO (1871 – 1872)Scott #40
(Position E)Scott #43
(Position C)**KING ALFONSO XII (1875 – 1878)**Scott #52
(Position A)Scott #52
(Position A)Scott #55
(Position A)Scott #55
(Position B)Scott #56
(Position A)Scott #57
(Position A)Scott #57
(Position C)Scott #58
(Position A)Scott #58
(Position B)Scott #58
(Position B)

SMITH, BELL & COMPANY

KING ALFONSO XII (1880 – 1888)



Scott #79 (Mint)
(Position A)



Scott #79
(Position A)



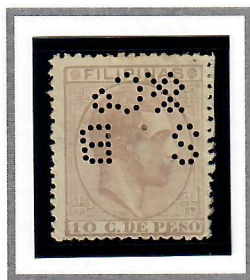
Scott #81
(Position C)



Scott #83
(Position A)



Scott #83
(Position C)



Scott #85 (Mint)
(Position C)



Scott #85 (Manila)
(Position C)



Scott #86
(Position A)



Scott #86 (Mint)
(Position B)



Scott #87 (Manila)
(Position C)



Scott #87
(Position D)



Scott #87 (Iloilo)
(Position D)



Scott #88 (Mint)
(Position A)



Scott #88
(Position B)



Scott #88 (Mint)
(Position C)



Scott #88
(Position C)

ROXAS REYES & COMPANY

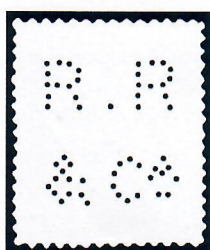
Roxas, Reyes & Company was Merchants in Manila in 1879 and the business was involved in shipping of agricultural products from the Philippines. Francisco L. Roxas y Reyes (1851-January 11, 1897) was linked to Roxas Reyes & Company. He was a businessman, musician and a second cousin of one of the richest men in the Philippines at that time, Don Pedro Pablo Roxas. He entered business in 1880 as a comisionista (commission agent) for shipping lines. By 1887 he had become a consignatorio de vapores (shipping agent) with office at Calle de la Barca, Binondo. In 1886 such was his prestige and wealth that he was appointed to the board of directors of Banco Español-Filipino, the first public bank of the Philippines. In 1890 he entered the import-export business for shipping supplies.

'R. R & CA' in two lines

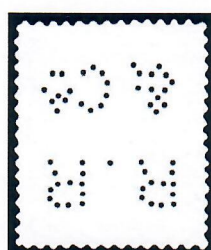
Period after the first 'R' but not after the second 'R'

Two periods below 'A' of 'CA'

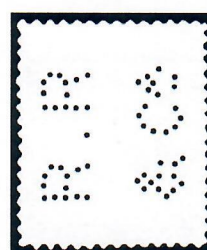
Used between 1870s and 1880s



Position A



Position B



Position C

GIRO FISCAL ISSUE (1871 – 1872)



Warren #114

With Roxas Reyes Business Handstamp
Position C

KING ALFONSO XII (1875 – 1877)



Scott #53
(Position A)



Scott #53
(Position A)

ROXAS REYES & COMPANY

KING ALFONSO XII (1875 – 1877) CONTINUED



Scott #55 (Mint)
(Position A)



Scott #55
(Position A)



Scott #57
(Position A)



Scott #57
(Position A)

1877 – 1879



Scott #59
(Position C)



Scott #60
(Position A)



Scott #60
(Position A)

1878 – 1879



Scott #62
(Position B)



Scott #67
(Position A)



Scott #68
(Position A)



Scott #71
(Position A)

ROXAS REYES & COMPANY

1879



Scott #72 (Mint)
(Position A)



Scott #72
(Position A)



Scott #72
(Position A)



Scott #72
(Position A)



Scott #73
(Position A)



Scott #73
(Position A)

Surcharge 98% Omitted



Scott #75
(Position A)

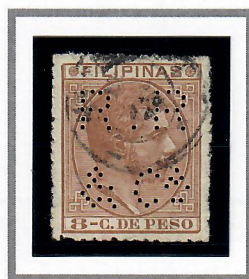


Scott #75
(Position A)

1880 - 1889



Scott #77
(Position A)



Scott #83
(Position A)



Scott #83
(Position A)

1881 - 1888



Scott #89
(Position A)



Scott #116
(Position A)



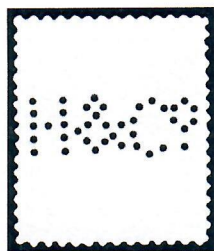
Scott #116
(Position A)



Scott #116
(Position A)

H & COMPANY

No validation as to the name and nationality of this firm.



'H & Co' in one line

Period below 'o' of 'Co'

Only known to occur printed normally
(with Perfin cutting across two stamps)

Used in the 1890s

KING ALFONSO XIII

1890 - 1897



Scott #174

1898 - 1899



Scott #201



Scott #204

